



July 2014

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

• **Jimmy Van Bramer**

Council Member, 26th District



• **Zephyr Teachout**

Candidate for Governor

Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 7:30 P.M.

**** NOTE START TIME: 7:30 P.M. ****

Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street, 718-720-4442



Editorial Policy

Items for publication must be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: cmaxbauer@yahoo.com.

Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.

Chris Bauer, Editor
(917) 576-9248

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"I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical."

- Thomas Jefferson
1787

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President	Tom Shcherbenko	Member at-Large	Roy Moskowitz
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S.I.D.A. President's Statement

July 2014

Another New York legislative year ended in June and, once again, lots of progressive legislation failed to get passed.

What happened to campaign finance reform? In January, Governor Cuomo suggested a six-to-one small-donor matching system for political campaigns. A bill passed the Assembly, by an 88-to-50 vote, but never came before the State Senate. The Governor said that he considered that a failure.

Fracking? The Assembly passed a three-year moratorium of oil and natural gas drilling permits, 89-34. The Senate bill, despite being sponsored by a member of the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), died in committee.

How about a ban on “gay conversion therapy” for minors? Chris Christie signed this law, and even the Supreme Court declined to hear arguments against it. The Assembly passed, 105–29, a bill to prohibit health care professionals from practicing “sexual orientation change efforts” on children. The Senate, despite having four IDC members and a Republican as co-sponsors, never voted on this.

Discrimination against transgender people? The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) would outlaw discrimination based on gender identity or expression and would expand the hate crimes law to explicitly include crimes against transgender people. This also passed the Assembly by a 3-to-1 margin, and also stalled in a Senate committee.

Protecting the rights of women? Our club championed all ten points of the Women’s Equality Act, which passed the Assembly but was never voted on in the Senate.

Immigrants? The DREAM Act allows undocumented students who meet certain conditions to receive financial aid. It also creates a private scholarship fund for the children of immigrants and allows undocumented students and their families to open college savings accounts. This passed the Assembly but failed in the Senate by two votes.

What about basic health and employee issues? The Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act would require acute care facilities and nursing homes to implement nurse-to-patient ratios in nursing units. Despite bi-partisan co-sponsorship, this bill never made it to the floor of either chamber.

Progressive organizations across the state have decried the failure of so many bills. In almost every case, the Assembly passed the legislation by a comfortable majority. In too many cases, bills died in Senate committees chaired by Republicans. Our club must make a progressive, Democratic majority in the State Senate one of our priorities.

*Sincerely,
Tom Shcherbenko
President*



Please note
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

New York City Council Member from the 26th District Jimmy Van Bramer will be a guest speaker at our July 15 General Membership Meeting. Please note the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The following was taken from his website www.jimmyvanbramer.com:

A life long resident of Western Queens, Jimmy Van Bramer was elected to the New York City Council on November 3, 2009. He was overwhelmingly elected to a second 4-year term on November 5, 2013.

On January 22nd, 2014 Council Member Van Bramer was elected Majority Leader of the New York City Council which is the second highest ranking member in the 51 member body. As part of his duties as Majority Leader, he was also appointed by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito to co-chair the newly constituted Budget Negotiating Team (BNT) which plays an integral role in formulating the City's budget process to fund critical programs, projects and organizations citywide. Council Member Van Bramer also plays a key role is working with all members of the City Council, serving as a bridge between colleagues and the Speaker.

Council Member Van Bramer was also reappointed to chair the Council's Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committee. As Chair of the committee, he has direct oversight over 200 libraries and thousands of cultural organizations, institutions and programs throughout New York City. During his first four years as Chair of the Cultural Affairs Committee, Council Member Van Bramer fought hard to restore over \$575 million for our City's libraries and the arts.

In 2013, as an active member of the New York City Council's budget negotiating team, he helped secure \$106 million for capital funding projects that will continue to help our City remain a world class destination.

As a Council Member, he has dedicated himself to addressing the issues that the people in the 26th Council District care about. From 2009 to 2013, Council Member Van Bramer's office helped over 12,000 constituents with a wide variety of issues, including: illegal drag racing, graffiti on private properties, cleanliness of residential streets, necessary traffic safety improvements, immigration/deportation cases, social services and general quality of life complaints.

Since taking office, Council Member Van Bramer has continued to aggressively tackle overcrowding in our schools. In just four years, he has played a pivotal role in securing six new schools within the 26th District. The addition of these new schools will provide over 2,600 seats to neighborhood children in Astoria, Long Island City, Sunnyside and Woodside.

During his first term, Council Member Van Bramer allocated over \$10 million toward enhancing parks throughout the 26th District. With this funding he has helped build new dog runs, renovated existing playground facilities and increase the amount of green space throughout the community.

A community organizer, Council Member Van Bramer is the son of two active union members. While growing up he sometimes followed his stepfather, a public-school custodian, to work. As he watched his stepfather polish classroom floors and scrub desks so that children and teachers could have a clean learning space, Council Member Van Bramer learned the importance of hard work, and the powerful impact that seemingly small efforts can have on the lives of working people. Council Member Van Bramer has carried those lessons throughout his life.

Council Member Van Bramer's career has been devoted to making our community stronger and making life better for Queens families like the one he grew up in. From 1999-2009, he served as the Chief External Affairs Officer of the Queens Public Library. As the library's link between community members and government, Council Member Van Bramer worked to protect and expand important library services, such as after-school programs and English language classes. He also led members of the Queens community on annual trips to Albany and Washington, D.C. to help them make their voices heard by government officials. In addition, Council Member Van Bramer served as a member of Community Board 2 and its Land Use Committee from 2006-2009.

Before joining the leadership of the Queens Borough Public Library, Council Member Van Bramer fought to protect the rights of regular people in the democratic process by working on the Clean Money, Clean Elections campaign. As the organization's Deputy Field Director, Jimmy brought together Queens community leaders and working people from every walk of life to win important changes in election laws. Council Member Van Bramer has also worked as a reporter for Lesbian and Gay New York (LGNY), now Gay City News, a community newspaper, where he brought attention to the AIDS epidemic and bias/hate crimes.

The ideals that Council Member Van Bramer has worked for over his entire career — respect for working people, equality for all, and the importance of improving quality of life in our community — were instilled in him by his family and strong Catholic upbringing here in Queens. His father, William Van Bramer, was a lifelong member of Printers' and Pressman's Union Local 2. Elizabeth Van Bramer, Council Member Van Bramer's mother, helped support the family by taking a variety of jobs in their neighborhood, and she was a member of Local 1893 of the International Brotherhood of Painters.

Council Member Van Bramer is proud to have been educated in Queens' public schools. He graduated from P.S. 70, J.H.S. 10, and William Cullen Bryant High School. He then worked his way through St. John's University. Since 2004 he has represented his neighborhood and the 37th Assembly District on the New York State Democratic Committee. Additionally, he is a past President of the West Queens Independent Democratic Club and a member of the Board of Directors of the Ridgewood Democratic Club.

Majority Leader Van Bramer currently lives in Sunnyside Gardens with Dan Hendrick, his partner of 15 years. The two were married on July 28th, 2012 with Council Member Van Bramer becoming the first openly-gay elected official to get married in the borough of Queens.



Please note
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Zephyr Teachout

Zephyr Teachout, a candidate for Governor, will be a guest speaker at our July 15 General Membership Meeting. Please note the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The following was condensed from her campaign's website <http://www.zephyrteachout.com>:

Clean, Fair, Open and Democratic Campaigns

Four years ago, Andrew Cuomo stood on the steps of a courthouse named after Boss Tweed and announced his campaign for Governor with a promise to clean up Albany. He has failed. Worse, he has become part of the problem. Big money interests today have even more power than they did when Andrew Cuomo took office. We have a campaign finance system that hands the wealthy few immense sway over our state government. The result is a government that responds to the one percent, not to the rest of us. That's why our public schools get starved, while the rich get tax breaks. The way big money has directly shaped Governor Cuomo's policies is well documented. Cuomo's style of governing may not be technically illegal, but it epitomizes legal corruption.

My life's work has been devoted to preserving democracy, and safeguarding it from the corrupting threat of concentrated wealth. When I promise to clean up New York's corrupt campaign finance system, voters can trust that I deliver. As governor, I will begin immediately to build a system that ensures that politicians represent the people. This includes the following five specific actions:

- a. Public Financing of Elections
- b. Strictly Limit Big Donor Money
- c. Strictly Limit Corporate Money
- d. Close Corporate "LLC" Loopholes
- e. Revive the Moreland Commission

The Best Public Education in America

Public education is the foundation of democracy. That's why so many members of the founding generation in America promoted free public education. I was lucky to have the chance to attend great public elementary and high schools. My first real job out of college was as a special education aide in a rural public school. I know from personal experience that strong public schools are essential not just to learn the skills and gain the confidence needed to thrive in today's economy, but to build the knowledge and experience every citizen requires to become a full participant in political society.

Governor Cuomo has abandoned our public schools. His drastic budget cuts are short-sighted and entirely unnecessary. Under his tenure, class sizes have swollen to record levels, depriving students of the attention they need. New York school districts have had to eliminate tens of thousands of educator positions, amounting to more than 10 percent of the entire teaching workforce. This means schools have had to slash art, music, and sports, among other programs.

What makes this even more outrageous is that Governor Cuomo did not make these cuts because state coffers were empty. He made these cuts so he could cut the taxes of New York's wealthiest individuals, of New York's wealthiest banks, and of New York's wealthiest corporations. Worse yet, after intentionally starving New York's public schools, Governor Cuomo charged New York's public school teachers with failing New York's students. He then

used this charge to justify calling for the privatization of schools and for the imposition of draconian testing requirements.

One of the prime duties of the governor of New York is to safeguard our **public** schools from any private interest that threatens their public purpose. Yet Governor Cuomo, in his four years in office, has rarely even visited a public school. As Governor, I would dedicate myself every day to restoring New York's public schools to their rightful place as the best in the nation. Specifically, I would pursue the following five strategies:

- a. Full and Equal Funding for Public Education
- b. End High-Stakes Testing
- c. Protect Against Privatization
- d. Empower Local Communities
- e. Suspend the Suspension Pipeline

21st Century Environmental Policy

As residents of New York, we have an obligation to protect our environment and halt the irrevocable disturbance to our climate. The catastrophic risks posed by climate change are real, and unless we take immediate steps to steer ourselves onto a different course, we will keep exposing ourselves – and our most vulnerable citizens – to immense harm.

The first challenge is to reduce carbon emissions. The cheapest, fastest, and most productive way to do this is to use less carbon. We can do this on a large-scale by adopting a public works project to retrofit and reinsulate commercial and residential buildings across the state. Some of the biggest emitters of carbon in New York City, for example, are old edifices like the Chrysler building, whose aged and leaky infrastructure means it uses far more energy than need be. By undertaking a public works project to insulate town halls and retrofit gas stations, we would improve the energy efficiency of our buildings dramatically. Better yet, we would also create much-needed jobs all around the state, boosting the economy while also safeguarding the environment.

The second task is to adopt clean sources of energy. At the moment our system is rigged towards fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas. An intricate system of public subsidies keeps dirty sources of energy artificially cheap, which means that companies and individuals will keep relying on them. We must revamp these incentives to promote renewable sources: solar, wind, and hydro. California, for example, has changed its policies so that it is now cheaper to buy solar energy in the state than it is to buy coal. There are a host of policies we can adopt to promote clean energy, ensuring that it is no longer easier to construct a new gas pipeline than it is to build a new wind farm. New York should convert its state energy infrastructure to be powered by wind, water, and sunlight by following some of the measures outlined in the Jacobson plan. This will also require that we design an electric grid capable of handling renewable sources of energy on a large scale.

We should ban fracking, clear and simple. Officially known as "hydraulic fracturing," fracking is a method of drilling for natural gas that risks contaminating our groundwater and endangering our environment with chemicals and radioactive elements. Governor Cuomo has embarked on a lengthy and much-delayed process to study whether fracking can be conducted safely. But the Governor's approach misses a key point: even if it were deemed safe, fracking would take us in the exact opposite direction from where we need to go. It would dramatically lower the price of natural gas and ensure that companies keep opting for fossil fuels over clean sources of energy.

There is no time for half-measures. We can promote clean energy and invigorate the economy simultaneously. Arguments implying there is an intractable trade-off between the two are designed to favor the incumbent companies that benefit from an economy centered around fossil fuels. We must do far more.

A Fair, Open and Democratic Economy

New York is an extraordinary state, and we should have an economy that matches our capacity. Yet Governor Cuomo's economy works primarily for a few big businesses, one that enriches the rich and strangles opportunities for the rest of us. Extreme consolidation has enabled a few giants to hike prices, squeeze supply, and unfairly trample competitors. The game is rigged, and the evidence is all around us. We face staggering inequality of wealth and opportunity, at levels unseen since the Gilded Age. Unemployment continues to soar even as corporate profits are booming.

Rather than work to reverse these inequities, Governor Cuomo has made them more severe. He has consistently supported short-term policies that enrich a few, and that leave behind workers, the middle class, and poor families.

Within his first year he modified the millionaire's tax to benefit some of the wealthiest earners in New York State: those with an annual income between \$500,000 and \$2 million received a tax break of almost 25 percent, costing the state over \$1 billion a year. He has raised the estate tax exemption from \$1 million to a whopping \$5.25 million— a huge giveaway to the richest in our state. And even though corporate tax revenues make up a much smaller percentage of total state tax revenues today than they did 30 years ago, the Governor cut their contribution even further. In this year's budget, he reduced the corporate tax rate from 7.1 percent to 6.5 percent, the lowest rate since 1968. What's more, he eliminated a separate bank tax entirely, which means our biggest commercial banks pay taxes on only 8 percent of their securities income, even though New York's share of investment banking is 39 percent.

Who pays for these giveaways to the wealthy? The rest of us. Scrapping the bank tax and reducing corporate taxes alone will cost New York over \$700 million a year in lost revenue when those cuts are fully phased in. New York is paying for these cutbacks by slashing spending on social services and public education. Governor Cuomo has handed more money to the rich, in other words, by shortchanging our children. There are tens of thousands fewer teachers in our public school since the Governor took office. The share of state funding for our public schools is at a 65-year low.

Even when Governor Cuomo has moved to serve the people of New York, his policies too often come with a catch. He agreed to raise the minimum wage some – but it won't come into effect for three years. Governor Cuomo pushed to ensure tax cuts for the wealthy keep apace with inflation, but wouldn't demand the same for minimum wage – exposing the buying power of low-wage workers to inflation. He claims his tax policies benefit the middle class – but the tax burden on middle-income New Yorkers is still one- and-a-half times higher than what the richest New Yorkers carry. He takes credit for reducing the unemployment rate – but when you take into account the thousands of workers who've given up on looking for a job because there's nothing around, the unemployment rate is actually a full point higher than what the Governor proclaims.

Playing around with numbers can't mask the facts: Governor Cuomo's economic policies have mostly enriched the few at the expense of the many.

We can have a people's economy, one that puts the working people and middle class back at its center. We can restore the people's economy in New York. We can challenge the great

concentration of wealth and power that rigs our economy and corrupts our democracy, so we can recover the foundations of our common prosperity.

My economic policy would rest on four platforms:

- a. Economic Fairness
- b. 21st Century Internet
3. Stop the Consolidation of Power
4. Infrastructure

An Open Democracy

The foundation of 21st century democracy is an open and connected community. Governor Cuomo's New York is closed and backward-looking. There are three areas I would focus on to open up New York's society and unleash the great talents and powers of our beautiful state:

- a. Immigrant Dignity
- b. Voting
- c. Criminal Justice Reform



Four Presidents' Anti-Fracking Op-ed

The Staten Island Advance published and put on-line the following anti-hydraulic fracturing op-ed from four of Staten Island's Democratic clubs.

On Staten Island, we know firsthand about some of the devastating consequences that hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) would bring to New York if it were allowed in our state.

The dangers of fracking, with well explosions killing workers and evacuating towns, brings back bad memories of the liquefied natural gas explosion that killed 40 workers here in Staten Island in 1973.

As presidents of four long-standing Staten Island Democratic clubs -- The Democratic Organization of the County of Richmond; The North Shore Democratic Club; the South Shore Democratic Club and The Staten Island Democratic Association -- we do not want to see the other disastrous impacts come to our state.

Our Democratic clubs -- which strive to grow civic engagement in the political process -- strongly oppose allowing the dangerous drilling process in New York. As Democrats, we support progressive policies that prioritize environmental protection over corporate profits. But irrespective of political affiliation, we must all agree that the health of our families should be the top priority.

Despite gas industry propaganda, natural gas is a fossil fuel and the dirty process to access it is inherently wrought with danger.

Fracking is not only a menace to public health and safety, but the destructive practice of shooting chemically-tainted mixtures into our land also risks poisoning our water, food, land, and us. Some chemicals used are endocrine disruptors, causing growth disruptions and other dangers to our children. And many of the chemicals are carcinogenics.

Many of those who live in states where fracking is allowed, like Pennsylvania, have suffered through its contamination of their drinking water. Residents have been left to fend for themselves as gas corporations refuse to take responsibility and governments fail to hold them accountable.

Numerous studies confirm the experiences of those across the country harmed by fracking's pollution of water. Worse, a recent government watchdog report found that the federal government failed to inspect fracking sites most likely to cause water contamination.

And it's not just the water of upstate New York that would be threatened. The ancient aquifers that bring New York City its drinking water could be seriously jeopardized by the earthquakes caused by fracking.

Geologists in Ohio recently linked earthquakes in the state directly to fracking. Fracking-related earthquakes had previously been fracking wastewater, which had caused a dozen Ohio earthquakes within just one week.

Studies from various states with fracking have revealed alarming levels of air pollution and raised red flags for public health, startling enough for the American Lung Association to support a moratorium in New York.

We don't want the health of our families and generations of New Yorkers threatened so that big gas and oil corporations can increase their billions of dollars in profits.

We also realize that a deepened reliance on fossil fuels like natural gas only exacerbates climate change, making the extreme weather events we experience more severe.

We know the unprecedented havoc Sandy brought to our neighborhoods and we continue to live with its destruction. Our state shouldn't contribute towards making such weather events worse.

Governor Cuomo should be a national leader by banning fracking – it would fulfill his responsibility to the public interest by protecting our safety and health from its inherent dangers.

- Gary Lane

President

The Democratic Organization of the County of Richmond

- Michael Arvanites

President

The North Shore Democratic Club

- Rosemarie Mangano-Cavanaugh

President

The South Shore Democratic Club

- Thomas Shcherbenko

President

The Staten Island Democratic Association



Please note
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

June 2014 Minutes

General Meeting June 17, 2014

President Shcherbenko called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. He mentioned that Loretta Prisco had passed away and also Paul Scublinsky's father and asked for a moment of silence. Joy Robins made a motion to accept the minutes for May as published in the newsletter. The motion carried.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Joann Olbrich presented highlights from the June 5th Executive Committee meeting.

Issues Committee

President Shcherbenko announced that Richard Reichard agreed to take over as Issues Committee Chair, which Loretta Prisco had previously chaired. Richard spoke briefly to the members and said he would be sending around a sign-up sheet to see who would be interested in participating on the committee. He also mentioned that he plans to make Immigration Reform his next focus.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Mark Herman mentioned that we are in the middle of petition season and he stressed that it's important to finish petitions by the first week in July. He also spoke briefly about the New York State Committee meeting that he attended in May with Gary Carsel.

Executive Committee Vacancy

President Shcherbenko announced that due to Loretta's passing there was a vacant seat on the Executive Committee, and according to S.I.D.A.'s constitution the person with the next highest votes can fill the spot. Bobby Digi was the person with the next highest number of votes and he accepted the position.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman reported the balance \$8,333.01. Bonnie also mentioned that if the mailing label on the back of the newsletter says 2014 you are current with dues.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Liz Price mentioned that the annual club picnic will be held on Sunday, July 20th at Willow Brook Park from noon to 4:00 p.m. She also emphasized that she needs members to pitch in to help out and she will be sending around a sign-up sheet. Liz also reminded members that the annual banquet will be held on September 18th at The Crystal Room. She mentioned that Roy Moskowitz will be receiving the club service award and Lawrence O'Donnell from MSNBC will be receiving the Humanitarian award. Roy, who was responsible for getting Lawrence O' Donnell, spoke briefly about him. Richard Luthman announced that he will give a \$500 sponsorship from his law firm to help keep costs from the dinner down.

1st Guest Speaker

Jim McEnroe of Progressive Democrats of America spoke about the purpose of the organization. It is to help elect progressive Democrats and bring progressive issues to the Democratic Party. He added that the organization has been around for 10 yrs. and they are finally organizing a New York Chapter. Mr. McEnroe said he would leave cards with President Shcherbenko and urged members to call him with any questions they may have. In the Q& A period he answered questions from several members.

2nd Guest Speaker

Rev. Robert Emerick spoke about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (T.P.P.). Rev. Emerick mentioned that Rev Will Nichols sends his regards and has fond memories of S.I.D.A.. He spoke about the economic effects of the T.P.P., and since we don't know the provisions of T.P.P.; it's difficult to predict its economic effect. In the handout he distributed to members he states that "perhaps we can draw some tentative conclusions about T.P.P. by learning about NAFTA. He adds that there are many "authoritative" but questionable reports available on NAFTA.

Rev. Emerick also urged members to check the newsletter for details regarding the forum sponsored by The Staten Island Ad Group called: "The Trans Pacific Partnership: How American Trade Policy will affect all of Us." President Shcherbenko urged members to attend the forum to be held on June 25.

New Business

Martha Echols, a recipient of the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship reported that she used her award to attend the Women's Campaign School at Yale. She said she is proud to be part of S.I.D.A. and she showed the members the diploma she received from the Yale program. Martha said that she met a very diverse group of people from many different countries. She added that the program was very interesting and she feels she gained a lot from attending. Martha thanked all the people who supported her.

Alan Cappelli spoke about his possible primary campaign for NYS Senate against Diane Savino. Gary Carsel, Democratic candidate for NYS Senate 24th District gave a brief update about his campaign.

President Shcherbenko recognized John Sollazzo, Vice Chair of Democratic Committee of Richmond County. John reminded members about the Chairman's Party, Back to the Beach to be held on July 19. He said the money they raise helps candidates. John also mentioned that Gary Carsel needs 1,000 signatures to get on the ballot, and he said he was passing around sign-up sheets for two upcoming petition drives.

Rose Uscianowski reported that she is working for NYC Outreach of Universal Pre-K and she urged members to sign up to volunteer.

Rich Florentino expressed the fact that he is upset that he didn't get chosen to become the new chair of the Issues Committee. He said he feels he has a broader perspective. Joann Olbrich added that Rich's name was brought up at the Executive Committee meeting as a wonderful contributor. She also mentioned that according to S.I.D.A.'s Bylaws the President can appoint members to chair a committee with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

*Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



Letters

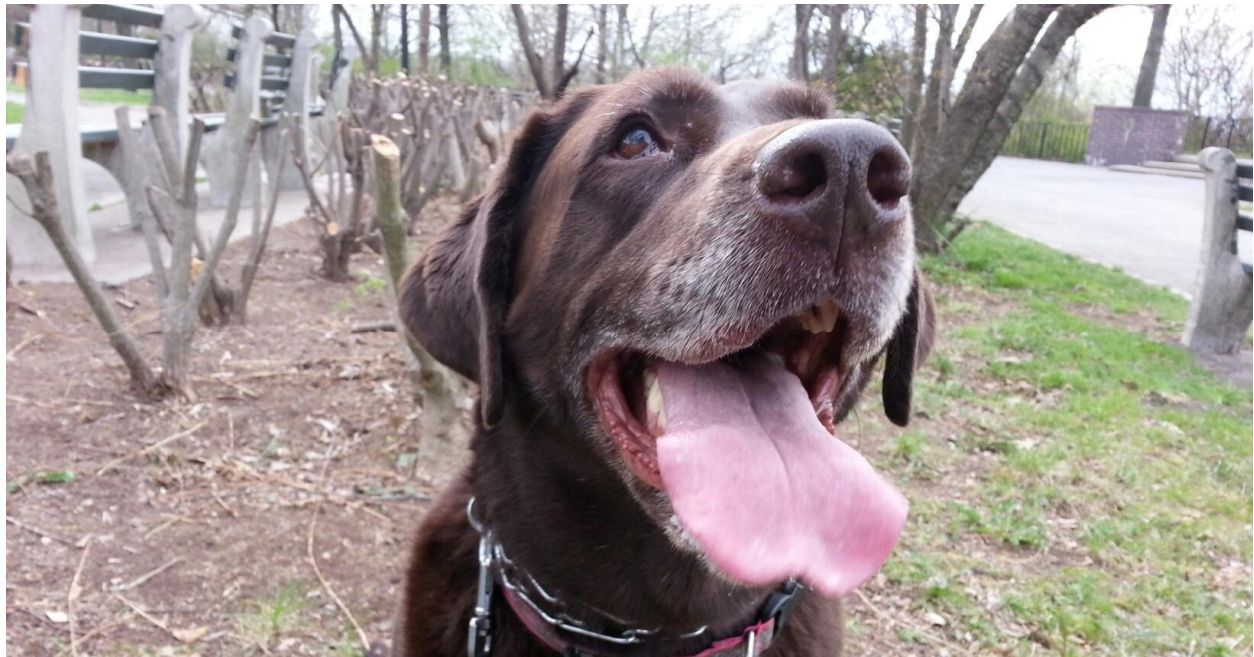
We in S.I.D.A. like to make our views known. The following are some of the letters written by S.I.D.A. members that have appeared in print. Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were in the Staten Island Advance and/or posted on the Advance's website www.silive.com. Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.

*The following appeared in the New York Daily News.
On-line June 20, 2014
Printed June 20, 2014*

What Bush Wrought

Staten Island: The disastrous events occurring in Iraq today are a direct, inevitable and predicted consequence of the Bush-Cheney decision to exploit the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as an excuse to invade Iraq. In the process, they allowed those actually responsible for attacking us to get away. Saddam Hussein was a monster. However, he was a very effective check on Iran, Al Qaeda and the religious fanatics who now have free rein. And now, the same neocons responsible for that debacle are blaming President Obama and insisting that the United States repeat the mistake! They learned nothing from Vietnam and nothing from Iraq.

- Joann Olbrich



Here is a picture of a happy dog, just because.

S.I.D.A. Banquet

S.I.D.A.
**Annual
Banquet**

Thursday, September 18

7 - 10 p.m.

Crystal Room

(same venue as last year)



July 20 S.ID.A. Picnic

S.I .D.A Picnic

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Noon – 4:00p.m.

Willowbrook Park Barbecue Area

Driving Directions:

**Richmond Avenue, turn east on Eton Place
Barbecue area is behind the carousel.**

**Celebrate summer
& S.I .D.A. President
Tom Shcherbenko's 60th Birthday**



For information contact Liz Price, lizhprice@aol.com, 347-415-4555



Chairman's Boardwalk Bash



July 19th, 2014 - Life of The Party Fundraiser

We hope to see you at Chairman John P. Gulino's Annual Boardwalk Bash on July 19th, 2014. It will be held at The South Finn Grill, 300 Father Capodanno Blvd, Staten Island, N.Y. 10305 from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Please be sure to reserve your ticket as soon as possible by emailing tomfeeneyjr@gmail.com or calling 718-983-5009. Thank you as always for your support!

Ticket Prices:

\$75 - Guest

\$150 - Supporter

\$500 - Friend

\$1,000 - Sponsor

\$2,500 - Event Host

Please make all checks payable to:
"Life of the Party"



July 15, 2014	August 19, 2014
General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street	General Meeting 8:00p.m. Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer • Candidate for Governor Zephyr Teachout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker Senator Diane Savino

It's Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!

To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Bonita Rothman at (917) 596-3724, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.



2014 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$15 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$10 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$5 Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

_____ Check (payable to: S.I.D.A.) _____ Cash

I understand SIDA is a Democratic Party club. I (or we, if this is a Family Membership) am (are) at least 17 years of age and an enrolled Democrat, or intend to enroll as a Democrat upon becoming eligible.

Signature _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Make checks payable to S.I.D.A. and send to: S.I.D.A.
P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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